



## Tweaking the I-15 plan

**Posted: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 10:41 am**

In our view

Recent changes announced for the Interstate 15 CORE rebuild seem to be good ideas -- mostly. The Utah Department of Transportation seems to have heeded local concerns and effectively addressed the two biggest ones.

First was a redesign of the exit at Provo's Center Street. The original rotary design, which to some folks looked too much like the layout of the Indianapolis Speedway, will be replaced by a modified diamond exchange. This will result in smoother traffic flow and fit in better with the surroundings, officials said.

Also, now, three lanes instead of just two will be open during the reconfiguration of the S-curve between University Parkway and Provo Center Street. The original plan threatened to leave traffic jammed for up to six hours on summer holidays. The change turns the traffic equivalent of a root canal into routine drilling for a cavity, which is an improvement.

The new plan adds a pedestrian underpass at University Parkway mainly to serve students from Utah Valley University. That may be a bit more questionable. Long, dark, unguarded passageways seem ominous to many people, especially women. UDOT will have to allay such concerns.

All in all, however, the highway agency seems to be striving to address legitimate concerns. It's using a construction process that allows it to make sensible changes as the project goes along, and it seems a good bet that Utah Valley will see more as work proceeds on its most important highway.

Hopefully the agency will continue to display sensitivity to the area's needs and flexibility and creativity in addressing them.